

# AMAA news



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## The Students of Merdinian School

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AMAA LA Children's Fashion Show and Luncheon  
Pastor Baroudjian of France  
James Jameson Essay Contest Winner



## 30th Anniversary

Celebrating Excellence in Education



Some of the alumni of Merdinian School sharing their achievements after graduation from the school.

### AMAA NEWS

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## Editorial Message

# A Voice From Syria

Rev. Haroutune Selimian

**W**hile the entire Arab world is undergoing major changes including Syria, the Christian minority, as part of the entire population of Syria, is facing many challenges that are mixed with new realities.

New realities are always tied to the roots which might be considered the backbone of our Armenian Evangelical reality. The Armenians in Syria are Syrian citizens of either full or partial Armenian descent. Syria and the surrounding areas have often served as a refuge for Armenians who fled from wars and persecutions such as the Armenian Genocide. We as Armenians have often expressed our gratitude to the Arabs for their kindness and hospitality toward the surviving remnants. Thousands of orphans were cared for in different towns of Syria. Moreover, Aleppo has been a center of Armenian Evangelical activity since 1923. The Armenian Evangelicals with their 11 churches in Syria, 5 in Aleppo, 4 in Kessab, 1 in Damascus and 1 in Homs have played a pivotal role in the life and mission of the Armenian Evangelical leadership worldwide. It is worthwhile to note that much of our global leadership has come from our churches in Syria.

In the life and ministry of Armenian Evangelicals, education has been given prime importance. The Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria currently owns and operates 2 elementary schools in Aleppo, 2 secondary colleges (Bethel and Aleppo College for Girls), 1 elementary school in Kessab and 1 elementary school in Damascus.

It is worth noting that one of our success stories in Aleppo is the upgrading of the Bethel elementary school to the high school level. The school structure was built in Aleppo, Syria in 1923 and accommodates about 350 Armenian students from kindergarten through grade 12. Since the Armenian Evangelical Bethel School has faced a major decline in numbers in the past couple of decades, we had to recover that lost image of a good past and recreate the possibility of granting teenagers of ages 12 or higher to continue their education in a highly qualified school.

The mission of the Aleppo College for Girls is developing under the leadership of the Aleppo College Board of Trustees of the Armenian Evangelical Community. The Aleppo College for Girls structure was built in Aleppo, Syria in 1922. Now, the school accommodates about 448 mixed (Christian and Muslim) students from grades 7 to 12. This is successively the fifth year where the enrollment of the Armenian students at Aleppo College has increased. The college offers chapel services, public lectures and retreats for students, teachers and staff.

**The Armenian Evangelical "Armiss" Conservatory** was established in Aleppo, Syria. The school was named "Armiss" and was located on the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church campus. The main purpose of having such a center is to help our children discover and expand their musical talents and to enhance their performance skills. The conservatory has a director along with 10 music teachers.

**Missakian Cultural Center** was established in 2006 in Kessab, Syria by the generous donations of Dr. and Mrs. Mike Missakian of Los Angeles, CA. The center is located in a reconstructed school building. The main purpose of having such a center is to further develop the cultural life of the Armenian communities of Kessab. The center has an auditorium, library, computer lab, music room (conservatory) and guest room. The center provides music lessons (piano and guitar) and also holds conferences, language and computer courses, in addition to special lectures for young couples to mentally and spiritually cultivate their lives.



**Youth Work:** Since 1933, youth groups have been formed along the patterns of the Christian Endeavor Society, an international organization. There are now 5 youth groups and 2 junior groups with a total of about 200 members.

The Christian Endeavor Union is in charge of the following activities:

- Planning and holding summer conferences for young adults and juniors, as well as undernourished children.
- Organization of the Daily Vacation Bible School during the summer months.
- Supervising the function of summer camps for many communities in Kessab, Syria.

**Social Service:** The Old People's Home in Aleppo is functioning in partnership with the Armenian Orthodox and Armenian Catholic churches as well as the "Arevig" Day Care Center for Armenian Disabled Children, founded in 2000 and functioning in partnership with Armenian Orthodox and Armenian Catholic churches.

**Social Work Committee of the UAECNE:** Due to economic inflation in Syria, the community is facing a financial crisis, resulting in unemployment and monetary insufficiency. To partly remedy the situation, the Social Action Committee has been activated to provide assistance to needy families. Unfortunately, today the problem and the need are escalating day after day.

In Aleppo, a clinic has been functioning since the arrival of the Armenian refugees after the war in 1918. The clinic has rendered services to those arriving in poor health and almost starving. Lately, the clinic has been reorganized and modernized into a polyclinic, to serve Armenians, non-Armenian Christians as well as Moslems without discrimination. A dental department was initiated in 1987, and an echography machine was installed in 1989.

As an Armenian Evangelical community, we also organize Inter-communal worship services (Christian Unity worship service, Vartanants Day Celebration, Commemoration of Armenian Genocide, etc.). We initiate musical concerts, public lectures and seminars and attend all other activities organized by the Armenian Orthodox and Armenian Catholic churches.

As the violence continues to escalate in the country, there are killings and kidnappings on many roads. Kidnappers are mainly targeting children, and some people have stopped sending their children to school. Gradually, many areas have become unsafe. The whole country is struggling from a lack of fuel and shortage of food.

For example, you cannot safely drive even one kilometer outside Aleppo without fear. Gangsters are everywhere and kidnapping people has become a way to earn money. The number of jobless people is increasing rapidly and the sick are unable to find cures for their problems. Almost 3 million people out of Syria's population of about 20.5 million have been affected. It is estimated that at least 10,500 people have been killed in violent clashes since mid-March, 2011. Thousands have fled the country, and many more have sought refuge with family and friends away from their homes. Food and fuel prices have risen and the economy is clearly in decline. In the midst of this turmoil, churches have kept their services intact and schools are operating, except on Fridays. Still people don't leave their homes after sunset unless they go to areas they know well and have easy access to.

We, as Armenian Evangelical churches and institutions in Syria, are living in a fundamentally Moslem country and have never faced discrimination in our economic endeavors or social activities. We can state that our Armenian Evangelical community in Syria, with no exception, is strongly attached to Syria as their own country and homeland, with profound feelings of love and devotion. Syria is home for many of us. We aspire for a country where we can see the rule of law being practiced. We have contributed positively to the social, economic, religious and political life in Syria. We have experienced a great deal of freedom to practice and teach our faith both in our schools and churches. Such freedom is immeasurable to the persecution and inequality that other Christians have experienced in the region. If there was a freedom scale for Christians in the whole Middle East and North Africa, Syria comes next after Lebanon.

The one thing that must sustain the church is its faith. Many of the believers are still clinging to their faith as their hope for the future, even though politically speaking, it's very unclear what their fate will be. The Christian life is like a race in which perseverance is necessary to reach the finish line. Sadly, some have abandoned this race due to a lack of perseverance. Many have stumbled and decided not to get up. Many have become discouraged and stopped running. But those who are conscious of the great importance of perseverance, in the midst of difficulties and temptation, will be able to finish the race.

*"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,*

*because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."*  
*James 1:2-4*

*"...who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."* *2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 1:4*

The source, of strength is not in ourselves: it is, God Himself. We do not survive pressure by focusing on surviving; we do not survive pressure by focusing on our own perceived strength. We survive pressure by keeping focused on God.

With all that is going on, the Syrian crisis puts the Christian communities everywhere face-to-face with the threat of irrelevance. We are a small minority, with good intentions that needs to act accordingly with conviction and courage.

It is always encouraging to know that our community is not forgotten nor on its own. Times of crisis are also times of solidarity and fellowship with the wider world. And we are experiencing that today. Our people will work for peace and safety. They will continue to prepare for a good future for their children. And, the faithfulness of God and the help of many of His children will certainly be with us. □

*Rev. Haroutune Selimian is the President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria.*

## How You Can Help

**T**he escalation of violence throughout Syria is causing a humanitarian emergency which adversely affects our Armenian families. The AMAA is reaching out to you for assistance. We are working to provide emergency goods to our people in Syria. Time is of the essence. Please remember our brethren in your prayers and give generously to Syrian relief efforts through the AMAA. These are our people. We must be first to help them!

Please make your tax deductible donation, payable to AMAA and earmarked for Syrian relief, and mail to AMAA, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. To make a donation with a credit/debit card, please visit [www.amaa.org](http://www.amaa.org) or call the AMAA office at 201.265.2607.

Thank you for your prayers and your support.



# Merdinian School Celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**T**he C & E Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School, located in Sherman Oaks, CA, celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school's founding at a gala banquet held on March 4 at the Deukmejian Ballroom of the Ararat Home in Mission Hills, CA.

The banquet was a huge success. Over 350 guests and dignitaries attended, including members of the school's Board of Directors, faculty, administration, students, parents, alumni, founding members, PTO members, the Women's Auxiliary, past and present AMAA Board members and officers, Armenian Evangelical ministers, representatives of the Western Prelacy and Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church, representatives of the Armenian Catholic Church, the Consul General of the Republic of Armenia, the first President of the American University of Armenia, and members of the Armenian press. Hreir Sagharian was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening and introduced Dr. Vahe Nalbandian, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Merdinian School.

Dr. Nalbandian thanked the attendees, the sponsors of the event as well as members of the Banquet Committee, the PTO and the Women's Auxiliary. He introduced Lina Arslanian, the newly appointed Principal of the school. Prior to her being elevated to the principal's position, Mrs. Arslanian served the school capably for thirteen years in various capacities, as a teacher, department chair and curriculum coordinator.

Recent accomplishments of the school were mentioned, including renewal of the school's accreditation for a full six-year term, the highest SAT scores achieved by its students in the school's history, and the major renovations made to the campus facilities.

During the past twelve months, the school has been the beneficiary of three

major grants: a very large gift from the Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center for the repair and renovation of the school's buildings and grounds; a major gift from Anahis Derian-Boolghoorjian for the renovation of the school's assembly hall; and a substantial gift from the Ahmanson Foundation to upgrade the school's computer lab.

On behalf of the Merdinian School Board of Directors, Dr. Nalbandian expressed his sincere gratitude to these generous donors and presented a plaque on behalf of the Board of Directors to the Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center and to its Executive Director, Hagop Loussarian, as a token of its appreciation.

Mr. Loussarian was one of the visionaries who planned and founded Merdinian School. He served as a Board member and Chair of the Personnel Committee during the early years of the school's existence. His love for the school has remained very much alive.

Dinner followed the invocation by Rev. Ara Chakerian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood, CA. After dinner, Dr. Nalbandian recognized Mrs. Derian-Boolghoorjian, a registered nurse and a philanthropist, for her generous donation to Merdinian School and various other organizations, including the AMAA and Haigazian University. Upon completion of its renovation, Merdinian School's assembly hall will be named the Aram and Anahis Boolghoorjian Hall.

Following a musical interlude, Peter Kougasian, Esq., AMAA Board of Directors Vice President, Assistant District Attorney for the County of New York, and a gifted speaker, delivered a captivating keynote speech entitled "Why Merdinian? What is the purpose of a Christian, Armenian education in this increasingly secular world?" (See



*Dr. Vahe Nalbandian, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Merdinian School, honoring Mr. Hagop Loussarian (above) and Mrs. Anahis Derian-Boolghoorjian.*

a condensed version of Mr. Kougasian's speech on the next page).

The keynote speech was followed by brief messages by Grigor Hovhannissian, Consul General of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles, and Helen Haig, daughter of Alice Haig, who played a key role in the establishment of the school and who served as the first Chair of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Personnel Committee.

School Principal Arslanian delivered her message both in English and in Armenian. After that, ten alumni ascended to the podium, introduced themselves, and mentioned the years they graduated from Merdinian, the colleges they attended, the career paths they now follow, and what key principles the school taught them. One of the alumni read a passage that included remarks made by each of the ten graduates.

Rev. Joe Matossian, Minister to the Union, concluded this highly successful celebration of the school's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with his benediction. □

# Why Merdinian?

**Keynote speech delivered by Peter Kougasian, Esq., at the C & E Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet on Sunday, March 4, 2012.\***



Why Merdinian? What is the purpose of a Christian, Armenian education in this increasingly secular world?

Merdinian School is rowing against the tide. That tide consists of all those cultural influences that bombard our children, telling them that money is the measure of all things, that a good education is nothing but a good test score; a culture whose heroes are “famous for nothing.”

In our schools, these values are reflected in the assumption that religion and education must be kept antiseptically separated. Not that religion is bad, but simply that it is not relevant to our studies in a secular world.

And what's wrong with that formula? Why can't we leave teaching to the schools, and faith and values to the home and the church? The best way to explain the fallacy is to quote the epigram of the medieval philosopher St. Anselm. He said, “I do not understand, that I may then believe. I believe that I may then understand.”

This certainly does not mean that as Christians we should reject the conclusions of science, or diminish the liberating spirit of the scientific method. But trying to describe the great sweep of history, or trying to discuss ethics or philosophy, without even making reference to religious faith becomes an exercise in futility.

When religion and education are separated so fanatically, teaching becomes sterile. As the Book of Proverbs tells us, the very beginning of wisdom is fear of God.

A true understanding of justice and of right and wrong starts with an acknowledgment that there is a duty above mere self-interest; that justice and virtue are not terms defined by human beings here on earth, are not dictated by our own convenience, but are, in a real sense, defined by God.

We are here today because we want a school where young minds are at least exposed to the idea that right and wrong really are sacred commandments, that we act morally not because our brain forces us to, nor just because it makes us feel good, but rather we act rightly because we believe that as we do unto the least of them, so we do unto our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Our American forefathers fought a revolution over the proposition that human rights are inalienable — because they are endowed in us by our Creator. We want our children to understand those rights by coming to know that Creator.

Other schools may do well at teaching reading, writing and arithmetic. Their alumni may do fabulously well financially. But without the kind of education children receive at the Merdinian School, how will our children come to see that Christian faith is not just tradition, or superstition, or ethics, or some expression of their ethnic heritage, but rather that Christian faith is so important that for its sake, their Armenian forbears went to their death.

It all comes down to this: Who we are, and what life means, and how education can be transformative — all of these will remain shrouded unless at least a glimmer of the gospel is allowed to illuminate our children's studies.

Many of you knew the late Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian, the former Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. Shortly after our son Alex was born, Rev. Janbazian and his family came to visit us. As he held our baby, he recalled the story of the Biblical Moses: the Princess, finding the baby in the river, placed him in a maiden's arms to raise, not realizing that in so doing, she had just returned him to his mother.

Rev. Janbazian reminded us that our children in fact belong to God; that God puts them in our hands to raise for Him. We are here today because we realize that we have no duty more sacred than to raise these children for their true Father.

And that is our answer to the question, “Why Merdinian?”

*\*Peter Kougasian, an Assistant District Attorney in the New York County Attorney's Office, is Vice President of the AMAA Board of Directors. For over 30 years, he worked for District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau. Mr. Morgenthau is the grandson of Henry Morgenthau, Sr., who was an American Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire during the Armenian Genocide and whose memoir, “Ambassador Morgenthau's Story”, is one of the most important contemporary documents chronicling the Genocide.*





LA area Child and Orphan Care Committee members

## Over 550 Attend AMAA LA Children's Fashion Show and Luncheon

The Crystal Ballroom of the Beverly Hills Hotel in Beverly Hills, CA was the beautiful setting for the Armenian Missionary Association of America's Child and Orphan Care Luncheon and Children's Fashion Show on March 17. A record crowd of over 550 guests was captivated by the wonderful items available for bid at the silent auction. The luncheon co-chairs, Marilyn Bezdikian, Nicole Nishanian and Leslie Shahinian, welcomed the lively crowd and introduced the vivacious emcee for the day, Megan Tevrizian, from NBC San Diego. The three co-chairs of this event worked tirelessly to make every aspect of the luncheon enjoyable for all the guests. Lisa Karamardian gave a moving devotional and Joyce Stein, esteemed advisor and National Co-Chair of the Orphan and Child Care Committee, followed with remarks about the AMAA and its mission to help needy children and their families. The ballroom looked spectacular with festive tables adorned with beautiful floral centerpieces generously donated by Jacob Maarse.

This year's silent auction was tremendously successful — there were over 130 items to bid on! Sandy Bedrosian and Christina Jabarian, the silent auction co-chairs, and their wonderful committee procured many amazing items, including resort packages, incredible jewelry, beautiful Lalique and Lladro pieces, and much more. Argine Jean Kelegian, the silent auction set up chair, with the help of Christine Minasian and David Z Design, made the auction room look absolutely breathtaking.

After lunch, Tina Segel encouraged everyone to sponsor a needy child and make a difference in their lives. A video was shown describing the poor and substandard conditions where many of Armenia's children live. By the end of the lunch, a record number of needy children were sponsored — 110 in all!

After a delicious dessert, the children's fashion show was introduced by Ani Zakari, who along with Marilyn Bezdikian, coordinated this year's show. The fashion show was sponsored and produced by Nordstrom Glendale. The Nordstrom Glendale team, along with the committee, worked tirelessly to make the fashion show a success and to make sure that the presentation of more than sixty children and teenagers in this year's show was seamless. This year, several committee members, Elizabeth Agbabian, Mary Hovanessian, Mary Kassabian, Grace Kurkjian, Suzie Phillips, Joyce Stein and Jessica Vartoughian, walked with their lovely grandchildren in the fashion show. Nordstrom was thanked for its partnership and participation in this year's event which is very much appreciated. Assistance with the video presentation of the fashion show was generously provided by the technical staff of Armenia Fund U.S. (Western Region) and coordinated by Julia Aghishian.

The finance and reservations chair, Sandra Kalemkiarian, announced that the luncheon was a tremendous success. Sandra works tirelessly every year, to efficiently close out the auction. "We are grateful for the very generous donations and sponsorships we received

this year," said Sandra. "This is the second year we've been sold out. We wish we had more room for everyone who wants to support the needy children in Armenia."

The guests left the event with a bag full of goodies, including amazing lotions, creams, shampoos and several nail care products, all generously donated by Jessica Vartoughian of Jessica Cosmetics. The beautiful gift bags with the AMAA logo were created and generously donated by Arsi Seraydarian. The bag of trail mix everyone took home was donated by LindaKay Abdulian of National Raisin Company. This year there was a huge surprise waiting for all the guests as they walked out of the ballroom. Armene Akopyan and Mary Bilbulyan of Night 'n' Gala Event Design donated a candy table so that everyone could select from an assortment of candies. O.N.E. Coconut Water was also available for everyone to enjoy as they left.

In closing, Lori Muncherian and Arsine Phillips, the West Coast co-chairs of the committee, thanked the committee and all the donors for their continued support of this event for the children in Armenia. Many children in Armenia lack the basic necessities of food, clothing and shelter. "We are changing lives and giving hope for a better future," explained Elizabeth Agbabian, Mary Najarian and Savey Tufenkian, who along with Grace Kurkjian, Joyce Abdulian and Hermine Janoyan, started this very worthy program after the 1988 earthquake in Armenia. □

# 2012 AMAA Internship Program

*"I can honestly say that the Internship Program during the summer of 2011 turned out to be a blessing in my life, and I wish that the trip never ended." Tamar Melkonian, Fresno, CA, 2011 AMAA Intern*

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) invites young adults like Tamar from the United States and Canada to participate in the 2012 Summer Internship Program to Armenia.

This special program, for young adults entering their senior year of high school to post-college age, offers a two-week trip to Armenia from July 5-23.

Vacation Bible School and evangelism will be the major focus of this year's Internship Program, which will be headed by Rev. Ara Chakerian, Pastor of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church in North Hollywood, CA and Pastor Joseph Garabedian of St. Nareg Armenian Church in Whittier, CA. Preliminary plans include running a Vacation Bible School program during the week and helping with evangelism events on the weekend. Interns will also be spending their time participating in summer camps, church programs and visitations. The group will travel together to familiarize themselves with significant sites related to their cultural heritage, and to learn about the important work of the AMAA in their homeland and in the Middle East. Rev. Chakerian and Rev. Garabedian will lead the interns in daily Bible study, discussion and prayer.

The cost of the program for the interns will primarily be airfare to and from Yerevan, Armenia which is estimated to be \$1,700 to \$1,800, and the cost of visas. The AMAA will pay for the local costs which includes food, housing and local transportation.

For more information on the program or to obtain an application form, please contact your local pastor or Rev. Chakerian at [internship2012@amaa.org](mailto:internship2012@amaa.org). The application deadline is May 15, 2012.

## AMAA Offers Scholarships To US and Canada Students

**M**ay 10 is the deadline to submit applications for the Armenian Missionary Association of America Scholarship Program which is open to students who attend colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. Qualified students can request scholarship applications for the 2012-2013 school year by contacting the AMAA.

Over the years, students like Laurie Dabaghian of Woodcliff Lake, NJ, Haig Kherlopian of Chestnut Ridge, NY and Gregory Chavoor of San Luis Obispo, CA have been granted scholarships to help with their studies and pursue their dreams.

Laurie, a second year medical student at the NJ Medical School in Newark, NJ, is "so grateful to the AMAA for helping me pursue my education and fulfilling my dreams of one day becoming a physician." "The AMAA has been incredibly supportive on my journey of becoming a minister," said Haig, who is completing his master's degree in Divinity at the Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, NJ. "The scholarship awarded me by the AMAA has freed up my time to serve the Church during my studies." Haig is currently serving as the Youth Pastor at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church in Havertown, PA and will continue his ministry there next year as an AEUNA Pastoral Intern before being ordained as an Armenian Evangelical Pastor. Greg is currently completing his master's degree in Electrical Engineering at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, CA.

Last year, the AMAA Scholarship Committee, chaired by Robert S. Hekemian, Jr., reviewed over 80 applicants and granted \$130,000 in scholarships for the 2011-2012 school year. The AMAA scholarships are provided from special endowment and scholarship funds established by donors who treasure educational excellence and achievements.

## Pastor Baroudjian of France Visits United States and AMAA

**P**astor Sarkis Baroudjian of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Arnouville, France paid a visit to the Armenian Missionary Association of America headquarters on February 20 as part of his evangelistic mission trip to the United States.

While in New Jersey, Pastor Baroudjian held two revival meetings on February 18 and 19 at the Armenian Brotherhood Bible Church in New Milford. He had a meeting with and spoke at the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus on February 19 on Remembrance Day of St. Vartanants. The audiences were blessed with his enthusiastic and spirit filled preaching of the Word of God. Many rededicated their lives to serving the Lord.

On February 20, Pastor Baroudjian visited the AMAA headquarters and met with Executive Director Levon Filian and Field Director Armen Beylerian. He shared with them his great passion of evangelizing Armenians around the world. He informed them of the “Djechmardoutian Khoske”, a television ministry that he began in February 2011. The half hour Armenian Christian television show airs on the second and fourth Sunday of each month on TV Armenia Company



through Hotbird Satellite Network. It can also be seen on [www.khoske.tv](http://www.khoske.tv). The show covers a broad number of topics including theological interviews, testimonies, youth topics, children’s programs, sermons, music videos and news from the persecuted church. Pastor Baroudjian’s vision is to expand this program beyond twice a month and to reach beyond the current Eurasia region.

In Los Angeles, Pastor Baroudjian met with Rev. Joe Matossian, Minister to the Union, and pastors from several Armenian Evangelical Churches and shared the “Djechmardoutian Khoske’s” vision. He also met with the staff of the International Christian Family Network in Glendale. □

### Armenian Churches in Worcester, MA Sponsor Dance for Milk Fund April 28

**T**he Armenian Churches in Worcester County, MA are joining together to sponsor a dance on Saturday, April 28 to benefit the AMAA Armenian Children’s Milk Fund as well as Habitat for Humanity Armenia and The Voice of the Armenian Church. The Milk Fund provides soy-based Isomil infant formula to needy infants in Armenia.

The dance will be held at the Armenian Church of Our Saviour Cultural Center, 34 Boynton Street from 7 p.m. to midnight and will feature live music as well as DJ Shaheen. The cost is \$30 per ticket (\$25 for students). For tickets and for further information, please contact Stephen Papazian at 508-842-77898 between 6:30 and 9 p.m. □

### AMAA Board Meets in California

**D**r. Joseph Zeronian presided over his first AMAA Board of Directors Meeting as President on March 3 at the Christian Outreach for Armenians Church in Glendale, CA. The Board wishes to thank Rev. Daniel Albarian, Pastor, and members of the Church for hosting the meeting.

A number of important issues were discussed at the meeting, including the affirmation of the Board’s commitment to the construction of the Avedisian High School and the construction of the House of Hope Church, both in Yerevan. The escalating situation in Syria was the subject of lengthy discussion and fervent prayers.

Harout Nercessian, AMAA Representative in Armenia, made a thorough presentation on AMAA’s missions in Armenia and the changing needs there. New AMAA Directors Phyllis Dohanian, Director of Development and Marketing, and Armen Beylerian, Field Director, were introduced at this meeting. □





Choose a meaningful gift to honor your mother this Mother's Day by "adopting" a Granny or supporting a child in Armenia through the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA).

*Who can find a virtuous woman?  
She is far more precious than  
jewels.*

Proverbs 31:10



Your donation of \$250 will enable the support of a Granny or child for one year. Grannies are provided with food, clothing, personal hygiene and health items, fellowship gatherings at AMAA centers and home visitations from AMAA social workers. Sponsorship of a child will provide nutritional and hygienic necessities, as well as school supplies and spiritual aid. (p.s. A few grandfathers also need support!)

A lovely personalized card will be sent to your loved one – your mother, grandmother, aunt, sister or friend – informing them of this gift made in her honor, along with the picture and biography of your sponsored Granny or child if payment and contact information is **received no later than May 4, 2012.**



Yes, I would like to honor a very special woman by: ☐ Adopting a Granny  
☐ Sponsoring a Child

I wish to pay ☐ \$250 annually ☐ \$125 semi-annually ☐ \$62.50 quarterly ☐ \$21 monthly

Enclosed is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail\_\_\_\_\_

The name and address of my mother, grandmother, aunt or friend I am honoring is

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Please make your tax deductible donation payable to AMAA (earmarked for Adopt-A-Granny or Child Sponsorship) and mail to 31 W. Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. To make a contribution with a credit/debit card please visit [www.amaa.org](http://www.amaa.org) or call the AMAA office at 201.265.2607.



## Calvary Armenian Congregational Church San Francisco, CA



Children participate in a reading and song at the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church in San Francisco, CA on Palm Sunday.

## Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church Pasadena, CA



The AMAA paid a visit to the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church in Pasadena, CA in March and met with members of the Board. Levon Filian, Executive Director of the AMAA, and Harout Nercessian, AMAA Representative in Armenia, also spoke at the Sunday service.

## Armenian Euphrates Evangelical Church Cranston, RI



Armen Beylerian, Field Director of the AMAA, (center), visits with Carlos Taraktzian and Robert Messerlian at the new sanctuary of the Armenian Euphrates Evangelical Church in Cranston, RI in March.

## Armenian Memorial Church Watertown, MA



The AMAA met with members of the Missions Committee at the Armenian Memorial Church in Watertown, MA in March.

## Executive Director Visits Chicago Church



The congregation of the Chicagoland Armenian Evangelical Church pictured with Levon Filian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

**L**evon Filian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), and his wife, Liliana, paid a visit to the Chicagoland Armenian Evangelical Church during Easter weekend, April 6-9.

During the visit, Mr. Filian met with key Church leaders and gave the Armenian Message on Easter Sunday. The subject of his inspirational message was "What After Resurrection?" (Harutyun Verch, Inch?). Following his message, he presented a concise update of all the major projects and activities of the AMAA.

The worship service was followed by the customary social hour in the Church's Social Hall. Mr. Filian met and talked with many members of the Church, encouraging all to be patient and to pray for the arrival of the new permanent pastor. □



# James Jameson Essay Contest Winner

## Armenian-American First Born Son

By Antranik Kalaydjian

**B**ack in middle school my Italian buddy and I used to half-jokingly brag to our other friends that we were thoroughbreds, unlike most of them. I myself descend from Armenian farmers, merchants, *bulghurji*'s, and one college professor. As different as they were from each other, they all shared the universal Armenian traits of hard work, business acumen, and devotion to family, church, and their people. Growing up, this was a way of living that I just took for granted. But as I got older and more “worldly,” I began to see that it was something pretty rare and special.

I wasn't always as proud of my first name as perhaps I should have been. It was so much easier to be known as “Andy” in school. But “Antranig” was my given name, laden with meaning as well as syllables. I *was* a first born son, as well as the progeny of our illustrious General Antranig, who hailed from the same mountain town as my maternal great-grandmother, Shabin Karahisar. So yes, I am truly honored to be a part of this legacy. I can only hope that one day I will live up to the admiration my name evokes.

Getting back to the college professor in my family line, my maternal great-grandfather, John Arozian, was teaching at Anatolia College in Marsovan when the deportations and massacres began in 1915. Travelling with a US passport, he and his family were en route to Constantinople to return to America when he was taken away in the night with several other men and killed outside of Ankara. A promising future in academia, a young wife and baby, all the optimism and enthusiasm of a young man achieving his goals – instantly and brutally wiped out by an act that would be repeated in every region of historic Armenia.

But was that really the end of John Arozian's hopes and dreams? When I chose to major in Chemistry I had no idea that was also my great-grandfather's major field of study. As a further irony, I was urged by my department head to attend the University of Illinois Champaign/Urbana for advanced studies. That happened to be the same graduate school John Arozian had attended before accepting a position at Anatolia College.

And it doesn't stop there. My two cousins graduated from the University of New Hampshire exactly 100 years after our great-grandfather completed his undergraduate studies there. These connections, far from being random, have created a sense of continuity, coming full circle, despite the genocidal intentions of the Ottoman government.

So here we are, three and four generations removed from our forebears who lived peaceably in their ancestral towns and villages without any concept of the word *diaspora*. That single word has had a powerful effect on the lives of all Armenians living outside the Motherland today. Our dual identities are a unique blend of our Armenian selves and our place in the dominant culture in which we live. I, for example, am an Armenian-American, but more specifically, I am a bit of a crusty New Englander, an avid Red Sox fan, and scion of a prominent Jerusalem family originally from Marash (those *bulghurjis*). Is it any surprise that my favorite meal is a boiled lobster with a side of *perper* salad?

Does living in the diaspora make me less Armenian than someone born in Yerevan, or even Beirut or Jerusalem? True, they are steeped in the culture and language. But one's sense of identity can only be measured by what is in the heart. I have an uncle who can speak no more than a half dozen words of Armenian, has been in an Armenian church the same number of times (or less), and has only a basic knowledge of our history. Yet such is his pride that he wears his Armenian-ness like a badge.

There are those who believe that carrying on the Armenian identity is an obligation, one pinned on us at birth. But an obligation can get old and ultimately result in resentment. More likely, it is a choice that is made either consciously or by unquestioning acceptance. As for those who choose to completely deny their heritage, I am sure the field of psychology has its theories about self-hatred and other complexes. It is known that people who feel comfortable in their own skin are generally happier and lead fuller lives than those who do not.

Just as there is no one formula for being a true Armenian, there is no single defining aspect of Armenian life. For some it is the Church – but which church? The Apostolic, Evangelical, and Catholic churches have all played major roles in their respective communities. For others it is our unique language. But do they mean the western or eastern dialect? Or classical Armenian? Music is another significant aspect of our culture, but do we think of liturgical music? The folk songs collected by Gomidas? Our vivid operas? In literature we have no shortage of historians, poets, playwrights, and novelists. Early Armenian illuminated manuscripts with their naïve and colorful biblical depictions are highly regarded in the art world and sought by museums here and abroad. And, let us not forget our collective history. For most Armenians, history evokes the calamitous events of 1915. But it also includes the early eastward migration of Armenians from Thrace and Phrygia, the pre-Christian era, the frequent battles with invading hordes, and the formidable Cilician Kingdom.

Wow! That a small nation constantly battling for survival actually found the time to develop such a rich civilization is pretty amazing, when you think about it. It may help to explain why we have held on so fiercely to our identity through centuries of advancing empires and shifting borders.

Now that Armenia is an independent republic, there is no telling what can be achieved in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and beyond. The possibilities are intriguing and, as they are realized, should become a source of pride not only for the people of Armenia, but for Armenians everywhere on the planet, whether in established communities or living in far flung outposts.

Count among them, please, this Armenian-American first born son.

# Սուրիոյ Մէջ Կանչողին Ձայնը...

**Վեր. Յարութիւն Սէլիմեան \***

**Մ**ինչ արաբական ողջ աշխարհը կ'անցնի հիմնական եւ արմատական փոփոխութիւններէ՝ ներառեալ Սուրիական Արաբական Հանրապետութիւնը, քրիստոնէայ փոքրամասնութիւնը, իբրեւ անբաժանելի հատուածը ասպնջական Սուրիական բնակիչներուն, նաեւ կը դիմագրաւէ բազմաթիւ մարտահրաւերներ, որոնք խառնուած են նոր իրականութիւններու հետ:

Նոր իրականութիւնները իրենց կարգին միշտ կապուած են արմատներու, եւ կարելի է համարել իբրեւ հիմք Հայ Աւետարանական իրականութեան: Սուրիոյ մէջ Հայերը լիարժէք իրաւասութիւններ վայելող Սուրիացի քաղաքացիներ են, իւրաքանչիւրը կու գայ հայկական ամբողջական կամ մասնակի ծագումէ: Սուրիական հանրապետութիւնն ու շրջակայ տարածքները յաճախ ծառայած են հայերուն որպէս ապաստան, որոնք փախչած են պատերազմներէ ու հալածանքներէ, որոնցմէ գլխաւորը Հայոց դէմ գործադրուած ցեղասպանութիւնն է: Մենք որպէս հայ ժողովուրդ միշտ եղած ենք երախտապարտ արաբ ժողովուրդին, իրենց ցուցաբերած բարեացակամութեան եւ հիւրընկալութեան համար: Հազարաւոր որբեր հոգատարուած ու խնամուած են Սուրիոյ տարբեր քաղաքներու մէջ: Ինչպէս նաեւ արժանի յիշատակութեամբ կը յիշենք, թէ Հալէպը եղած է կեդրոնը Հայ Աւետարանական գործունէութեան 1923 թուականէն սկսեալ: Հայ Աւետարանականները Սուրիոյ տարածքին իրենց 11 եկեղեցիներով (5 Հալէպ, 4 Քեսապ, 1 Դամասկոս եւ 1 Հոմս) խաղացած են առանցքային դերակատարութիւն աշխարհացրիւ: Հայ Աւետարանական եկեղեցիներու եւ առաջնորդութեան կեանքին եւ առաքելութեան մէջ: Արժանի է նշել, թէ մեր ղեկավարութեան մեծ մասը եկած են Սուրիոյ մեր եկեղեցիներէն:

Հայ Աւետարանականներուն կեանքի ու առաքելութեան մէջ, հիմնական կարեւորութիւն տրուած է կրթութեան: Հայ Աւետարանական Համայնքը Սուրիոյ մէջ ունի 2 Նախակրթարան դպրոցներ Հալէպի մէջ, 2 Գոլէճներ (Բեթլէ Երկրորդական Վարժարան եւ Հալէպ-Գոլէճ Աղջկանց բաժին), 1 նախակրթարան վարժարան Քեսապ եւ մէկ նախակրթարան վարժարան Դամասկոս:

Հարկ է նշել, թէ վերջին տասնամեակին մեր յաջող պատմութիւններէն մէկը Հալէպի Հայ Աւետարանական Բեթլէ Վարժարանի նախակրթարանէն՝ երկրորդական կարգերու բարձրացումն է: Վարժարանը կառուցուած է 1923-ին Հալէպ-Սուրիա, ուրտեղ կը յաճախեն 350 հայ աշակերտներ մանկապարտէզէն մինչեւ 12-րդ կարգերուն մէջ: Հայ Աւետարանական Բեթլէ Վարժարանը մօտիկ անցեալին կը դիմագրաւէր հայ աշակերտներու թիւի նուազում տարբեր պատճառներով, շարունակաբար, Հայ Աւետարանական Կրթական Խորհուրդը ունեցաւ հեռատեսութիւնը, վերականգնելու այդ խանգարուած պատկերը ու նախանձեղծ ծրագիր մը պատրաստեց ներկայ սերունդին, որպէսզի շարունակեն իրենց կրթութիւնը

որակեալ վարժարանէն ներս ակադեմական օրինական ու վաւերական ծրագիրով:

Իսկ ինչ կը վերաբերի Հալէպ-Գոլէճ աղջկանց բաժնի առաքելութեանը, ան կը զարգանայ խնամակալութեան հովանաւորութեամբ: Հալէպ-Գոլէճ կը յաճախեն մօտաւորապէս 448 աշակերտներ (Բալամ եւ Քրիստոնէայ) 7-12 կարգեր: Այս՝ յաջորդաբար հինգերորդ տարին է, ուրտեղ հայ ուսանողներու թիւի աճ կարելի է համարել: Գոլէճի մատուռէն ներս տեղի կ'ունենան առաւօտեան պաշտամունքներ, հրապարակային դասախօս-ութիւններ եւ համագումարներ ուսանողներուն, ուսուցիչներուն եւ աշխատակիցներուն:

**Հայ Աւետարանական «Արմիս» երաժշտանոցը** հիմնուած է Հալէպի Հայ Աւետարանական Բեթլէ եկեղեցիի շրջափակին մէջ 2006 թուականին: Դպրոցը անուանուած է Վեր. Արմենակ Միսիրեանի անունէն ներշնչուած: Երաժշտանոցի հիմնական նպատակն է աշակերտներու երաժշտական տաղանդները յայտնաբերել եւ ընդլայնել ու ընդարձակել անոնց գործունէութեան հմտութիւնները: Երաժշտանոցը ունի տնօրէն եւ 10 երաժիշտ ուսուցիչներ:

**Հայ Աւետարանական Միսաքեան մշակութային կեդրոնը** հիմնուած է 2006 թուականին, Քեսապ-Սուրիա, առատաձեռն նուիրատութեամբ՝ Բժ. եւ Տիկ. Մայք Միսաքեաններու: Դպրոցը կը գտնուի պատմական Հայ Աւետարանական Նահատակաց վարժարանի վերանորոգուած դպրոցաշէնքին մէջ: Կեդրոնի հիմնական նպատակն է զարգացնել Քեսապահայութեան մշակութային կեանքը: Կեդրոնը ունի լսարան, գրադարան, համակարգչային սրահ, Երաժշտութեան սենեակ (երաժշտանոց) եւ հիւրերու սենեակ: Կեդրոնին մէջ տեղի կ'ունենան Երաժշտութեան դասեր (դաշնամուր եւ կիթառ), ինչպէս նաեւ համագումարներ, լեզուի եւ համակարգչային դասընթացքներ, երիտասարդ զոյգերու համար յատուկ դասախօսութիւններ, որպէսզի մտովին եւ հոգեպէս մշակենք զիրենք:

**Երիտասարդական Աշխատանքներ** 1933 թուականէն սկսեալ երիտասարդական խմբակներ ձեւաւորուած են Քրիստոնէական Ջանից Միութեան օրինակով (միջազգային կազմակերպութիւն մը): Ունինք 5 երիտասարդական խմբակներ, 2 պատանեաց խումբեր, որ կը հաշուեն շուրջ 200 երիտասարդ եւ պատանիներ:

Քրիստոնէական Ջանից Միութիւնը կը զբաղի հետեւեալ գործունէութեամբ՝

ա. Ծրագրել ու կազմակերպել ամառնային համագումարներ: Երիտասարդներու, պատանիներու, Տիկնանց, ինչպէս նաեւ երեխաներու համար:

բ. Կազմակերպել Ամառնային Ս. Գրոց վարժարան ամառուան եղանակին:

գ. Վերահսկել Քեսապի մէջ տեղի ունեցած Ամառնային արշաւներուն:

**Ընկերային Ծառայութիւն** Հալէպի Հայ Ծերանոցը կը գործէ մասնակցութեամբ եւ հովանաւորութեամբ՝ Հայ Երեք Համայնքապետերուն:



Ինչպէս նաեւ Հայ Թերաք Մանուկներու «Արեւիկ» կեդրոնը, որը կառուցուած է 2000 թուականին եւ կը գործէ մասնակցութեամբ եւ ընկերակցութեամբ Հայ Աւետարանական, Հայ Առաքելական ու Հայ Կաթողիկէ Համայնքներուն հետ միատեղ:

#### **Մ.Ա.Հ.Ա.Ե. Միութեան Ընկերային Ծառայութիւն**

Սուրիոյ տնտեսական սղաճի պատճառաւ, համայնքը կը դիմագրաւէ նիւթաբարոյական տագնապ, որու հետեւանքով տեղի կ'ունենան գործազրկութեան եւ դրամավարկային անբաւարարութիւն: Մասամբ մը, իրավիճակը դարմանելու միտումով, Ընկերային Ծառայութեան Յանձնախումբը կը հայթայթէ օժանդակութիւն կարօտեալ ընտանիքներուն: Այստեղ կը յիշենք նաեւ Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութեան բերած գլխաւոր մասնակցութիւնը, հոգալով ընկերային ծառայութեան յանձնախումբին ճամբով, կարօտեալներուն եւ զանազան կարիքներ ունեցող անհատներուն: Յաւոք, որ այսօրուայ անհրաժեշտութիւնը կ'աճի ու կը զարգանայ օրէ օր:

Հալէպի մէջ բժշկական կեդրոն մը կը գործէ հայ գաղթականներու ժամանելէն ետք 1918 թուականին (պատերազմէն ետք): Կեդրոնը կը մատուցէ ծառայութիւններ շատ անցուկ պայմաններով ընտանիքներու: Կեդրոնը իր համակարգին մէջ ունի դարմանատուն, ծառայելու մարդկանց առանց կրօնական եւ դասակարգային խտրութեան, ինչպէս նաեւ ատաժապոտական բաժին մը նախաձեռնուած՝ 1987 թուականէն սկսեալ:

Իբրեւ Հայ Աւետարանական համայնք կը կազմակերպենք միջ-համայնքային պաշտամունքներ՝ Քրիստոնէաներու աղօթքի միաբանութեան, Վարդանանցօճակատարութեան, հայկական ցեղասպանութեան ոգեկոչման: Ինչպէս նաեւ կը նախաձեռնենք երաժշտական ձեռնարկներ, հրապարակային դասախօսութիւններ եւ սեմինարներ: Համայնքը կը բերէ իր գործօն մասնակցութիւնը տարբեր ձեռնարկներու, որ կազմակերպուած են քոյր համայնքներու կողմէ:

Մինչ բռնութիւնն ու անկայուն վիճակը կը շարունակուի Սուրիոյ մէջ, կը պատահին սպաննութիւններ, կ'առեւանգուին մարդիկ ճամբաներէն եւ հիմնականօրէն կ'առեւանգուին երեխաներ եւ որո՞ւ իբրեւ հետեւողութիւն մարդիկ դադրած են իրենց երեխաները դպրոց ուղարկելու: Այս օրերուն ամէն վայր դարձած է անապահով: Ամբողջ երկիրը կը պայքարի վառելիքի բացակայութեամբ եւ սնունդի կարիքով: Օրինակ՝ կարող չենք Հալէպէն դուրս 1 Քիլօ մեթր քշել անապահովութեան պատճառաւ, ահաբեկչական խմբակները ամէն տեղ են եւ մարդոց առեւանգումը դարձած է դրամ վաստկելու միջոց: Գործազուրկ մարդկանց թիւը կ'աճի շատ արագընթաց եւ հիւանդներ կարող չեն բուժուի գտնել իրենց հարցերուն: Սուրիոյ բնակչութեան մօտաւորապէս 20.5 միլիոն ժողովուրդի գրեթէ երեք միլիոն ժողովուրդը դուրս է երկրէն իրողութիւններէն ազդուած: Հաշուառնուած է, թէ առնուազն 10,500 մարդ սպաննուած է բռնի բախումներէն 2011 թուականի Մարտ ամիսէն սկսեալ: Հազարաւորներ փախած են երկրէն, եւ շատեր սննդամթերք եղած են եւ կը ձգտին ապաստան գտնել իրենց ընտանիքներուն եւ բարեկամներուն հետ իրենց բնակարաններէն հեռու: Ուտեստեղէնի եւ վառելիքի գինները ահռելի կերպով բարձրացած են, իսկ տնտեսութիւնը յստակօրէն անկումի մէջ է: Այս իրարանցութեան մէջ, եկեղեցիները կը պահեն իրենց առօրեայ ծառայութիւնները եւ դպրոցները սովորական կը շարունակուին, բացի Ուրբաթ օրերէն: Այդուհանդերձ, մարդիկ տակաւին կարող չեն դուրս գալ

մայրամուտէն ետք, բացի այն շրջանները որ լաւ գիտեն եւ դիրտութիւններ ունին վերադառնալու:

Մենք, որպէս Սուրիոյ մէջ ապրող եւ գործող Հայ Աւետարանական եկեղեցիներ եւ հաստատութիւններ, կ'ապրինք հիմնականօրէն մահմետական երկրի մէջ, եւ երբեք խտրականութիւն չէ եղած մեր տնտեսական կամ հասարակական գործունէութեան ձեռնարկումներուն: Կարող ենք ըսել, թէ Սուրիոյ մէջ Հայ Աւետարանական Համայնքը, առանց բացառութեան, հարազատ ձեռով կապուած է Սուրիական հայրենիքին, որպէս իր սեփական երկիրն ու հայրենիքը, խոր սիրով եւ նուիրման զգացումներով: Սուրիան մեզմէ իւրաքանչիւրին համար սեփական տուն է: Մենք կը ձգտինք երկրի մը, ուրտեղ մենք կարող ենք տեսնել օրէնքի գերակայութեան կիրարկուիլը: Մենք դրապէս նպաստած ենք Սուրիոյ ընկերային, տնտեսական, կրօնական եւ քաղաքական կեանքի վերելքին: Ունինք մեծագոյն ազատութիւն մեր քրիստոնէական հաւատքը ուսուցանելու մեր դպրոցներէն եւ եկեղեցիներէն ներս: Այդպիսի ազատութիւն անհամեմատելի է անհաւասարութեան եւ հալածանքներու, որ այլ քրիստոնէաներ կը զգան տարածաշրջանի մէջ: Եթէ կար ազատութեան չափանիշ մը քրիստոնէաներուն համար ամբողջ Մերձատր Արեւելքի ու Հիւսիսային Աֆրիկէի մէջ, Սուրիան կը յաջորդէր Լիբանանին իր ազատութեան իմաստով:

Մէկ բան, որը կը հաստատէ եկեղեցին՝ այն ալ քրիստոնէաներուն հաւատքն է: Շատ մը հաւատացեալներ կը կառչին իրենց հաւատքին որպէս իրենց ապագայի համար անդրդուելի յոյս, թէեւ քաղաքական իմաստով շատ անհասկնալի է գալիքը, թէ ի՞նչ կը սպասուի իրենց: Քրիստոնէական կեանքը կը նմանի մրցավազքի, ուրտեղ համբերութիւնը անհրաժեշտ է, հասնելու աւարտի գիծին: Յաւոք, որ շատեր հեռացած են այս մրցավազքէն, իրենց համբերութեան բացակայութեան պատճառաւ: Շատեր վրիպած են որոշած են կենալ: Շատեր դարձած են յուսահատ եւ կանգ առած են վազքէ: Սակայն անոնք, որ կը գիտակցին համբերութեան կարեւորութեան, դժուարութիւններու ու գայթակղութեան ընթացքին կարող պիտի ըլլան աւարտել մրցավազքը:

*«Եղբայրներ, բոլորովին ուրախութեան արժանի բան սեպեցէք, երբ կերպ կերպ փորձանքներու մէջ իյնաք, գիտնալով որ ձեր հաւատքին փորձառութիւնը համբերութիւն կը ներգործէ: Բայց համբերութիւնը կատարեալ ներգործութիւն թող ունենայ, որպէսզի կատարեալ ու ամբողջ ըլլաք ու բանի մը պակասութիւն չունենաք»:* (Յակոբ 1. 2-4)

*«... Որ մեզ կը միսիւթարէ մեր բոլոր նեղութիւններուն մէջ, որպէսզի մենք կարող ըլլանք միսիւթարել զանոնք որ ամէն տեսակ նեղութիւններու մէջ են, այն միսիւթարութիւնով որով մենք Աստուծմէ կը միսիւթարուինք»:* (Ա. Կորնթ. 1. 4)

Զօրութեան Աղբիւրը մեր անձերուն մէջ չէ, այլ Աստուծոյ մէջ: Մեր ազատումը մարդկային ջանքերով ձեռք բերուած չէ, ոչ ալ մեր անձնական ուժերուն վրայ վստահելով է: Մենք կ'ազատինք ճնշումներէն եւ հալածանքներէն, երբ կը կեդրոնանանք Աստուծոյ վրայ:

Սուրիոյ ճգնաժամը քրիստոնէայ համայնքները կը դնէ ամէն տեղ, դէմ առ դէմ, սպառնալիքի անպատեհութեամբ: Հայ Աւետարանական Համայնքը կը կազմէ փոքրամասնութիւն մը, փոքր կարողութիւններով, սակայն միշտ բարի մտադրութեամբ: Մենք պէտք ունինք համապատասխան ձեռով վարուելու, համոզումով եւ խիզախութեամբ: □

*\*Վեր. Յարութիւն Սէլիմեան Համայնքապետն է Սուրիոյ Հայ Աւետարանական Համայնքին*

## Sonia Alexanian Partizian

Sonia Alexanian Partizian of South Palm Beach, FL passed away after a brief illness on February 6, 2012 at the age of 91.

Born in Adapazar, Turkey, Sonia came to the United States in 1949. She lived in Boonton, NJ for many years before moving to Florida in 1987. She worked as a bookkeeper for several years at the State Bank of NJ before becoming a supervisor at Gotthelf's Knitting Mills in Boonton where she worked until her retirement in 1979. She was also a homemaker and a wonderful mother.

Her husband, Haic, passed away in 1985. She is survived by three sons, Aram, Lauris and Ronald.

Funeral services were held on February 11 at the Chatham United Methodist Church, Chatham, NJ. The family suggests that memorials be made in her honor to the Armenian Missionary Association of America. □

## Dr. Henry S. Badeer

Dr. Henry S. Badeer passed away peacefully on March 10, 2012 in Adams, NE at the age of 97.

A graduate of the American University of Beirut, he became a practicing physician in Beirut, Lebanon. Dr. Badeer devoted his life to teaching and medical research, especially in the area of cardiovascular physiology and later wrote a textbook on the subject. After moving to the United States, he taught at Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, NE. He was much loved at Creighton being perceived as the "gentlest, most pleasant person with whom students, faculty members and administrators interact with in the School of Medicine." He was fluent in several languages and enjoyed working with his hands. He was well known for his generosity, honesty, diligence and faith.

Dr. Badeer was predeceased by his wife, Mariam, who died in 2010. He is survived by his sons, Dan (Deb) of Hickman, NE, and Gilbert (Ruzana) of Cincinnati, OH; ten grandchildren; two nephews and three nieces.

A memorial service was held on March 12 at the Goldcrest Retirement Center Chapel in Adama. The family suggests that donations be made in his memory to the Armenian Missionary Association of America. □



## Harry A. Dulgarian

Harry A. Dulgarian, a long-time supporter, devoted Board Member and beloved friend of the AMAA, passed away suddenly on February 21, 2012 in Belmont, MA. He was 81.

Born in Philadelphia, PA to Avedis and Alisa (Devellian) Dulgarian, Harry grew up in Haverford Township, PA and graduated from Somerville High School, in Somerville, MA. He was a gifted pianist and studied privately with several renowned piano instructors. Harry was an Army veteran, having served two years during the Korean conflict.

A graduate of Boston University, Harry held several positions in the field of accounting for W.R. Grace, Simplex Wire and Cable Company and Algonquin Gas & Transmission Company, where he was Director of Tax for 22 years. He subsequently held the position of Controller at Danforth Associates, a brokerage firm in Wellesley, MA, where he worked until just a few years ago.

He was a very dedicated and active member of The First Armenian Church of Belmont, MA, serving as Treasurer for over 20 years, Chair of the Overview Committee and in various other leadership positions. He was a member of the Church Choir for over 30 years and a substitute organist for many years.

"The AMAA has lost a dear friend in Harry," said Levon Filian, Executive Director of the AMAA. "We will miss his dedication and outstanding years of service to the AMAA."

"Harry loved the AMAA," said his wife Dr. Liza Yessayan Dulgarian, a retired pediatric neurologist, "and found great satisfaction in serving the organization." Harry was elected to the AMAA Board in 1984 and was a member of the Class of 1987. He spent over 20 years as Recording Secretary, always ensuring that the minutes of meetings were prepared as meticulously and comprehensively as possible. In the late 1990s, he was instrumental in creating the Audit Committee, which he chaired. Over the years, he and his family sponsored several children in Lebanon through the AMAA Child Sponsorship Program.

Andy Torigian, past President and immediate past Executive Director of the AMAA, remarked, "Harry's passing was a major loss to the Association. Harry joined the Board of Directors of the AMAA over 30 years ago and was a devoted family man. After attending the AMAA Board meetings he, and his physician wife Liza, would drive to Pennsylvania to visit their daughter and her family. Harry was the Secretary of the Association for over 20 years



and we always admired the precision, lucidity, and thoroughness of the official minutes he submitted. Harry's work as a CPA made him the ideal Chairman for the AMAA Audit Committee and he always kept the AMAA on the correct path. He was a true Christian in every aspect of his life and he put the AMAA ahead of his other responsibilities. Harry devoted himself to helping the AMAA fulfill its destiny which he saw as the greatness and exceptionalism of its spreading of the Good News. He will be sorely missed by all of us and will always be remembered in our prayers."

Another one of Harry's loves was his summer home in Moody, Maine. He enjoyed his membership in the Moody Beach Association, including a three-year tenure as President. Harry was also active in the accounting community, serving as President of the Institute of Management Accountants, Boston Chapter. Under his leadership, the local chapter received national recognition. "Harry was a quiet leader, never needing to be in the front, but not shy to take on responsibility whenever he could," said Rev. Greg Haroutunian, Pastor of the First Armenian Church, in his eulogy at Harry's funeral. "Harry was a man of influence. His presence was always felt and his push for excellence always benefitted whichever organization it was."

His family was his first love. A devoted father of three, he always encouraged his children to reach as high and as far as they could, and was very proud of their many accomplishments.

He is survived by his devoted wife of forty years, Dr. Liza Yessayan Dulgarian; daughter Laurel Sarian (Gregory); twin sons Gregory (Rita) and Maj. Jeffrey Dulgarian; four grandchildren, Elizabeth, Christian, and Grace Sarian and Andrew Dulgarian; and his two sisters, Azad Tanielian and Virginia Harrington.

A memorial service was held on February 25 at The First Armenian Church in Belmont, following a private interment with Military Honors. The family suggests that memorial gifts may be made to the Armenian Missionary Association of America or to the First Armenian Church. □

## Teriz Malootian Hagopian

Teriz (Terry) Malootian Hagopian died peacefully on March 10, 2012 in Andover, MA. She was 92.

Daughter of the late Gabriel and Zabel Malootian, she attended Methuen, MA public schools and graduated from Boston University. She studied dance with several renowned dancers including Martha Graham in New York City. A "born teacher", Terry taught at



Middlebury College, Wheaton College, Boston University and McLean Hospital in Belmont, MA. She was a member of the Danvers Historical Society, Andover Historical Society, the Women's Guild of the former Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Church in Lawrence and Essex South Medical Auxiliary of the American Medical Association. She supported many charities, particularly those supporting children, the homeless and medical research. She was an avid tennis and bridge player and enjoyed water color painting and writing whimsical verses.

She was predeceased by her husband Dr. Peter B. Hagopian, former Superintendent of Danvers State Hospital. She is survived by her children, Calder, a physician in Alameda, CA; Debbie Ury (Frederic Esq.) of Westport, CT; and Justin St. James, Esq. of Andover; grandchildren Jennifer Gornbein and Robert Ury; and her sister Ida Boodakian and her husband Michael of Winchester, MA.

A funeral service was held on March 15 at the Free Christian Church in Andover. The family suggests that donations be made in her memory to the Armenian Missionary Association of America Children's Milk Fund or the Armenian Tree Project, USA, 65 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02472. □

## Dr. Armen Matigan

Dr. Armen Matigan passed away on February 21, 2012 in Glendale, CA, just three months shy of his 100th birthday.

Born to Ghevont and Lucy Matigian in Constantinople, Armen and his family were miraculously spared most of the trauma of the Armenian Genocide. They were living in Bulgaria at the time but moved back to Constantinople instead. The family then moved to New York City where his father joined friends to start an Oriental rug company.

Armen graduated from Columbia University in 1935 and went on to dental school at the University of Michigan. He joined the Army in 1942 and was discharged as a captain in 1946. After the war, he took time away from dentistry and joined his father's business. Later, he opened a private dental practice in Queens and remained there until he retired in the mid-1980s. At the age of 75, he returned to college and attended Fordham University to study philosophy. He and his wife moved to California in 2002 to be near their son.

He was predeceased by his wife of 46 years, Christine (Achouk); and is survived by his son, Robert of Glendale, CA. A memorial service was held at the Hollywood Hills Forest Lawn Cemetery Church on March 3. The family suggests that memorial donations be made to the Armenian Missionary Association of America. □

## Kevork Norian

Kevork Norian, a long-time supporter of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, passed away peacefully on October 31, 2011 at the Armenian Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Jamaica Plain, MA. He was 94.



Born in Aintab, Turkey, Kevork was the son of Deuflat and Lucia Nuyujukian. His family moved to Aleppo, Syria and he later graduated from Aleppo Junior College. He operated a textile factory for many years and also had a successful career at Sunbeam and Orian Research.

He was very active in the community, taught Sunday school and was involved in managing church affairs. Kevork was the bookkeeper for a business, owned and operated by a vision impaired group, and later worked as a volunteer for an interdenominational committee which distributed food, supplies and clothing to needy families and children.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Helen; four children Jack (Julie), Richard Vahe (Seta), Sylvia Mahserjian (Samuel) and Joseph (Christine); eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

A funeral service was held on November 5 at the First Armenian Church in Belmont, MA.

Memorials may be sent to the Armenian Missionary Association of America in care of the Kevork and Helen Norian Endowment Fund or to the First Armenian Church. □

## Dorothy Takooshian

Dorothy Takooshian passed away on March 11, 2012 in Paramus, NJ at the age of 91. She was born in Istanbul to Krikor and Sirpuhi Hampartsumian, who survived the deportations of 1915.

In 1934, her family migrated to Bronx, NY where she graduated from Monroe High School, and began her career as a hairdresser. On April 4, 1948, Dorothy wed Alfred Takooshian in Holy Cross Armenian Church in Manhattan. Alfred courted the Bronx beauty for 9 months after returning from combat in World War II, and always told others of their wedding: "That was the happiest day of my life — 4/4/48 at 4 pm. Dotty says 4 is my lucky number."

After Alfred passed away in 1992 in Fresno, CA, Dorothy travelled between her daughter in California, and her son in New Jersey. She was an unusually gracious person, who took wonderful care of many others in their final days at home. She had a heart for animals, and always a kind word for everyone. Funeral services were held on March 13 at the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus. She is survived by her daughter DeeDee; son Harold; and granddaughter Lori. □

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff also wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA NEWS.

- \* **Kevork Bakmazian**  
*Montreal, Canada*
- \* **Marguerite Bakmazian**  
*Montreal, Canada*
- \* **Kirk Bazoian**  
*Handerson, NV*
- \* **Mary Paraghamian**  
*Bethesda, MD*
- \* **Hagop Marandjian**  
*Montreal, Canada*

\* *Memorials designated for AMAA*

# AMAA NEWS is going GREEN

The AMAA NEWS is now available for our members to read online. Provide your e-mail address and the AMAA will send you a copy of the AMAA NEWS via e-mail. This link will give you the news as soon as it is available without waiting for publication.

We encourage you to let us know if you are interested in receiving the AMAA NEWS online. Please just send your e-mail address to us at [amaanews@amaa.org](mailto:amaanews@amaa.org) or call us at 201.265.2607.

Thank you for helping the AMAA go GREEN!



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## ENCORE PERFORMANCE OF JAZZ SENSATION GRACE KELLY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 2 IN PENNSYLVANIA

**H**ot on the heels of her captivating performance in Lexington, MA, Grace Kelly will be back for a second performance, this time in Havertown, PA. Presented by the Armenian Missionary Association of America and the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, the concert will once again benefit the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School in Armenia.

Recently named one of the Top 10 College Women in Glamour magazine, the 19 year old award winning jazz saxophonist has achieved many accomplishments in a short period of time, including having released seven CDs under her own label and playing for President Obama's inauguration in 2009.



The concert will take place on Saturday, June 2 at 8:00 pm at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church in Havertown, PA. Light refreshments will be served at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for students. For tickets or more information, please contact the AMAA at 201-265-2607.